

# WASHINGTON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

*Project Funding Request: EPA Grant - \$221,000, WISC Matching Funds - \$221,000*

## **Purpose of the Project**

The Washington Invasive Species Council (Council) was established by the state legislature to sustain plant and animal communities and the economy by preventing the introduction and spread of harmful invasive species. This project is specific to the Puget Sound Basin and is ready to begin once funding is available.

This project will:

1. Determine both the extent and impact of invasive species in Puget Sound and identify any gaps in protection and control.
2. Provide public access to this information for prevention, control, and response actions.
3. Educate the general public on the damage caused by invasive species and the role they play in prevention.
4. Establish a system to measure results and progress.
5. Improve coordination of all entities working to combat invasive species.

## **Scope of Work**

***Action 1: Determine both the extent and impact of invasive species in Puget Sound and identify any gaps in protection.***

***Due Date: June 2011***

**Deliverable:** An analysis and database housing current information on the extent of all invasive species throughout Puget Sound and its watersheds. This database will provide the scientific information needed for sound policy decisions to protect and restore the ecological functions of one of the country's most important estuaries.

***Action 2: Provide public access to this information for prevention, control, and response actions, through a web-based information exchange.***

***Due Date: December 2010***

**Deliverable:** A website allowing access to current (existing) information on invasive species in Puget Sound. Through this information exchange, managers can share information on new infestations and successful control measures, policy makers can access information for decision making, members of the public can learn about the problem and how they can help.

***Action 3: Educate the general public on the damage caused by invasive species and the role they play in prevention.***

***Due Date: June 2010***

**Deliverable:** A coordinated and effective education and outreach campaign that will increase support for efforts to protect Puget Sound from invasive species and enlist the public as partners in those efforts.

## **Outcomes/Expected Results**

1. **Invasive species prevention and control programs will be efficient and cost effective.** The baseline assessment will provide the accurate information needed to better inform decision-making on invasive species, so that programs and funding are spent on the highest priorities—those species presenting the greatest threats to ecology, economy and human health.
2. **New invasions will be prevented and existing infestations will be better controlled** as managers learn about best management practices, and members of the public change their behavior to reduce the likelihood of introducing or spreading invasive species.

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3. **The public, landowners, and government entities will be able to access invasive species information pertaining to Puget Sound on the web, including maps, tools, and risk assessment and rapid response models.** Improved communication and coordination between organizations, governments, and jurisdictions will ensure that investments are coordinated and efficient. A coordinated education campaign using the most effective tools and practices, with a broader audience reach, will increase awareness of the damage that invasive species cause and prevention steps everyone can take.
4. **Management of invasive species will improve over time** as progress is measured and information on the most effective techniques is shared in a timely manner.

### PROJECT TIMELINE

ACTION	7/2009-12/2009	1/2010-6/2010	7/2010-12/2010	1/2011-6/2011
<b>Determine extent of invasive species impact on Puget Sound and identify gaps through a baseline assessment.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Build data repository.</li> <li>•Locate &amp; compile existing digital and spatial data from all known sources.</li> </ul>	Data analysis – worst invasive species, locations, resources at risk, pathways, gaps in programs, funding, and authorities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Produce maps &amp; data for use by managers and the general public.</li> <li>•Develop system to measure results of programs and progress related to infestations.</li> </ul>	•Summative evaluation.
<b>Provide public access to invasive species information for prevention, control, and response actions, through a web-based information exchange.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•With partners including Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) find a cost-effective location for the web-based information clearinghouse i.e. RCO, Natural Resource Information Portal, USGS, PSP, council member entity.</li> <li>•Design user friendly web-site with features to assist an interagency rapid response network.</li> <li>•Identify information and links to populate clearinghouse.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Form a team to implement consistent, basic reporting format and standards for data input.</li> <li>•Review data for technical accuracy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Populate web-site for managers and general public: baseline information, best practices, likely threats, risk assessment models.</li> <li>•Publicize clearinghouse and adaptively manage content.</li> </ul>	Summative evaluation.
<b>Educate the general public on the damage caused by invasive species and the role they play in prevention.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Inventory and identify most effective educational tools and dissemination tactics.</li> <li>•Working with partners such as PSP, coordinate and focus existing efforts to reach a broader audience.</li> </ul>	Encourage and leverage participation of private sector, academia, and public.	•Summative evaluation.	
<b>Reporting</b>	•Project update to PSP.	•Project update to PSP, Legislature & Governor in annual report	•Project update to PSP.	•Final Report to Governor, Legislature, PSP, and Environmental Protection Agency.